

TWO FOR FREE IN WYCOMBE VICTORY

Sports Mail Special Report

ALTHOUGH good football was difficult on the snow-covered pitch, Wycombe Wanderers showed more dash against a young, but speedy, Dulwich Hamlet side in their Isthmian League game this afternoon, and won by 4-0.

Wycombe: Syrett; Beck, Moring; Truett, Fisher, Fryer; Worley, Trott, James, Bates, Free.

Dulwich: Darvill; Beard, Merritt; Smallman; Parsons, Purser; Wootton, Brown, Clay, Eastland, Field.

Referee: W. H. Clapton (Bermondsey).

Wycombe were soon attacking and Bates tested Darvill with a powerful shot close in, but the goalkeeper brought off a smart save.

With several inches of snow and slush on the ground, ball control was a hazardous affair and both sides tried to swing the ball about, with speculative shots at goal at every opportunity.

One long shot by Smallman was headed over the Wycombe crossbar by Fisher and at the other end Worley dribbled the ball into the centre but sent his shot just wide.

Wycombe were unlucky not to score when, after good work by Trott and Bates, a header by Free from Worley's centre hit the underside of the crossbar and rebounded out.

After 13 minutes, however, FREE put Wycombe ahead with a neat header from a clever pass by Trott. A little later another shot by Trott was almost diverted into the net by a Dulwich back.

After a sparkling solo run Worley sent in a shot which Darvill only just managed to turn over the bar for a corner.

Hamlet's nearest attempts came when Brown almost turned a corner kick by Wootton into the goal and again when Wootton, always prominent on the right wing, sent in a shot which Syrett saved well.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Dulwich Hamlet 0.

Five minutes after half-time JAMES increased Wycombe's lead when he ran through to lob the ball over the goalkeeper's head.

Bates took the ball to the left wing and centred for FREE to score through a crowd of players in the goalmouth.

Dulwich were limited to only occasional sallies into the Wycombe half, and in one of them Brown almost ran the ball past Syrett who managed to save at the last minute.

Five minutes before the end BATES added Wycombe's fourth a few seconds after James had been knocked unconscious in a collision with the goalkeeper and taken off the field.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE	4
DULWICH HAMLET	0

WYCOMBE'S FOUR JOLT RIVALS

Wycombe 4, Dulwich 0

WYCOMBE, showing improved form, proved too smart for a weakened Dulwich Hamlet side in a game which might have a vital bearing in the race for Isthmian League honours.

Hamlet, Wycombe's closest challengers for the League leadership, fielded five reserves and rarely looked like holding the businesslike Wanderers.

On a pitch covered with snow and slush Wycombe showed a confidence lacking in many of their recent games.

The young Dulwich side—average age not much over 20—was forced largely on to the defensive.

Wycombe's experiment of switching Paul Bates to inside left and bringing in the reserve sharpshooter Peter James to lead the attack proved a success.

Inside schemer

The wily Bates opened out the attack as an inside schemer, and left winger Free, partnering him, had one of his best games.

Hamlet's teenage halves wilted under the gruelling test.

Lacking support, the Dulwich forwards, despite the persistence of Eastland and Brown could not match Wycombe's experienced defence, in which Beck excelled.

Swinging the ball about briskly, in spite of the conditions, Wycombe took the lead after 13 minutes when Free headed in from Scott's pass. Only smart clearances by Darvill prevented them from adding to the lead before half-time, but James made it 2-0 five minutes after the interval.

Although Dulwich hit back gallantly in driving snow, Free scored again in the 70th minute.

Bates added the fourth five minutes from time—a few seconds after James had been knocked out in a collision with the goalkeeper.